

# Perdue Clean Waters Environmental Initiative



In November 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions 3 (Mid-Atlantic) and 4 (Southeast) and Perdue Farms Incorporated entered into an agreement to help independent contract poultry producers growing for Perdue protect our nation's waters. The parties signed a Memorandum of Agreement to implement the Perdue Clean Waters Environmental Initiative, an effort to provide training, assistance and environmental assessments for poultry producers. The initiative will help enhance the producers' compliance, as it relates to their poultry operations, with federal, state and local environmental regulations. Perdue poultry processing facilities will also each implement an Environmental Management System, a set of processes and practices designed to reduce environmental impacts and increase operating efficiency.

## Scope

- ❑ The Perdue Clean Waters Environmental Initiative is an expansion of a pilot program that was conducted in 2007 with the largest producers growing for Perdue on the Delmarva Peninsula. A joint EPA and Perdue evaluation proved the pilot program successful.
- ❑ The pilot will be expanded to include all independent contract poultry producers growing for Perdue in Region 3 and Region 4 states including Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.
- ❑ By the end of the four-year implementation, approximately 1,650 producers will be included in the initiative.
- ❑ The initiative also includes implementing an Environmental Management System program at Perdue's processing facilities.

## Together, EPA and Perdue will ...

... implement the Perdue Clean Waters Environmental Initiative to minimize environmental impacts to our nation's waters and to help poultry producers comply with environmental requirements. EPA and Perdue have identified the following critical components of the initiative and will work together to refine their elements:

- ❑ **Training and Assistance:** EPA and Perdue, in conjunction with federal and state agricultural agencies, will implement the training and assistance program to ensure Perdue field associates can perform thorough environmental and compliance assessments. Producers will be provided information to help them comply with environmental requirements governing poultry operations. They will also obtain technical and financial assistance to support implementation of Best Management Practices.
- ❑ **Producer Environmental Assessments:** Perdue will implement a thorough assessment program two times a year to promote poultry producer compliance (within the poultry production area) with critical elements of the Nutrient Management Plan and full implementation of required best management practices.
- ❑ **Deviation Notification Process:** Perdue will implement a program to enable producers to address and correct issues identified in the assessment.
- ❑ **Environmental Results:** Perdue, in consultation with EPA, will develop and implement a set of program measures to track progress toward achieving environmental improvement and compliance.
- ❑ **Program Evaluation:** Perdue and EPA plan to conduct an annual evaluation involving joint record reviews, environmental results analyses and joint site assessments to determine program effectiveness.
- ❑ **Recognition:** Perdue, in consultation with EPA, will develop and implement a program to recognize poultry producers who demonstrate environmental and compliance excellence, particularly those that are judged to be outstanding in their efforts to minimize nutrient loads to the nation's waters.
- ❑ **EPA Compliance Assurance Activities:** When targeting for inspections, EPA intends to consider the good faith and full participation by Perdue and participating producers as a factor in determining whether and how inspection activities will be undertaken.
- ❑ **Environmental Management Systems:** Perdue plans to implement an Environmental Management System at all of its processing plants using as a model the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001-based program that has been developed for its Salisbury, Md., processing plant.

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